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ABSTRACT

This publication offers a demographic and socioeconomic profile of Puerto Ricans in the mainland United States as of 1990. A section on population analyzes size, growth, and geographic distribution. A section on demographic characteristics covers age composition, sex composition, and household structure and marital status. A section on socioeconomic characteristics presents data on education, labor force participation and employment, occupations, and income. This section indicates that the educational attainment levels of Puerto Ricans in the United States are somewhat below those of many other groups, although Puerto Ricans have made significant strides since 1980. In 1990 for the first time more than half (56 percent) of Puerto Ricans had completed 4 years of high school or more. However, poverty remains a serious and persistent problem among Puerto Ricans, with the proportion of Puerto Rican families below the poverty level essentially double the proportion of Cuban and other Hispanic families and five time the proportion of White families below the poverty level. Data are from the 1990 United States census data. Ten tables, 16 figures, and 6 supplemental figures are provided. (Contains 11 references.) (JB)

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...PROFILE OF PUERTO ... THE UNITED STATES

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A DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PUERTO RICANS IN THE UNITED STATES

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FOREWORD

On September 10, 1992, I had the opportunity to testify on the topic of Puerto Rican poverty before the Subcommittee on Human Resources of the House Ways and Means Committee and could not help but highlight the telling fact that my testimony was the last of a long list of impressive participants. Clearly, one of the dilemmas the Puerto Rican community in the United States faces is the lack of attention it receives from policy makers, and sometimes its sheer invisibility in the policy-making arena. As this report testifies, the U.S. Bureau of the Census holds a great deal of data about Puerto Ricans, but for some reason it chose not to include Puerto Rican statistics in the report that prompted the September 10 hearings.

Although this profile focuses on the stateside Puerto Rican community, note must be taken of the fact that large portions of the 3.7 million Puerto Ricans who reside on the Island could be here tomorrow. As American citizens, they have a right to go anywhere in this country and it behooves us in the stateside community to take a hard look at what has happened to the 2.6 million who have chosen to do precisely that. Such is the main purpose of this report.

Puerto Ricans are perhaps the most highly urbanized ethnic group in the United States. According to the 1980 Census, 75 percent of Puerto Ricans in this country lived in central cities. From the 1990 Census we know that they concentrate in nine cities. These include cities in the Midwest and Northeast, such as Chicago, Illinois; New York City; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Newark, New Jersey; Hartford, Connecticut; and other smaller cities. Our configuration is specifically urban; we do not have rural populations and we lack a significant suburban population.

Thus, the conditions of poverty in the Puerto Rican community, which are startling, are inextricably tied to the conditions of large and seriously troubled American cities. This is important because it is one of the many factors that distinguish Puerto Ricans from other Hispanic groups. In fact, the lumping together of Puerto Ricans with Mexican Americans, Cubans, and Other Hispanics is one of the factors that contribute to the lack of understanding of their problems and to their invisibility.

I do not need to review the characteristics of Puerto Rican poverty here; the report does that in detail. What needs to be emphasized is that although the big cities of America are not working for large numbers of people, they have failed Puerto Ricans in a major way. Economic restructuring has been disastrous for Puerto Ricans. For example, the nine cities where the majority of U.S. Puerto Ricans lived in 1980 lost almost one million manufacturing jobs between 1963 and 1982, representing a 44 percent loss of manufacturing employment. These losses were in the industries that typically employed Puerto Ricans: light industry in the Northeast and steel and related industries in the Midwest. The greatest loss of these jobs, 30 percent, occurred in the decade after 1972.

The concentration of poverty that resulted from these changes has hit Puerto Ricans especially hard. Of the 15 cities with the highest rates of concentration of poverty in 1980, the four suffering the greatest deterioration since 1970 were all cities with large Puerto Rican populations. These are, in order, Newark, New Jersey; New York City; Chicago, Illinois; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Between 1977 and 1982, 12 cities with the largest concentrations of Puerto Ricans lost a total of 6,157 manufacturing establishments, a reduction of 17 percent in a five-year period. By 1987 these cities had lost almost twice that number of establishments (11,903) for a 68 percent reduction for the decade.

One could argue that the impact of economic restructuring can be ameliorated by preparing Puerto Ricans to take more positions within the service sector. By 2005 more than seven of every ten jobs could be in services. Between 1990 and 2005, the service-producing sector is projected to increase by 1.6 percent per year while the goods-producing sector is projected to grow annually by an average 0.1 percent.

The problem here is that not all segments of the service-producing sector are expected to grow equally. The communications and financial industries, which are sectors likely to provide good paying jobs, are expected to *lose* jobs or to expand very slowly due to new technology and automation, increased competition, slowdown in the cable indus-

try, and a continuation of mergers and consolidations. Furthermore, of the ten occupations projected to experience the most rapid job growth between 1990 and 2005, seven require postsecondary education or extensive employer training. This is quite a different scenario from the time when low-skill but reasonably paying jobs were available, plentiful, and fostered some hope of upward mobility. Today, well-trained and educated people can spend a year looking for employment only to end up settling for less than what they bargained for.

Urban economic restructuring is the single most important structural variable affecting Puerto Rican poverty today, but discrimination, reductions in public support for the poor, and slow economic growth are also major factors. Within this framework there is a lot that public policy can offer to move our people forward. For example, policies to promote small businesses must recognize the greater scarcity of family labor among Puerto Ricans. Similarly, employment strategies for female heads of households must provide for the greater breadth of child-care needs that Puerto Rican mothers have. Also, job training efforts must bring unemployed Puerto Ricans to the skill levels demanded by the growth industries of the future.

In sum, legislation must support urban initiatives that go beyond ameliorating the impact of poverty to promoting economic stability and self-sufficiency. NPRC believes that this report provides ample evidence that the condition of Puerto Ricans in the United States is simply intolerable. Targeted policies implemented through adequately funded programs will address Puerto Rican poverty and effect real change.

Louis Núñez
President

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Puerto Rican population in the United States has continued to grow rapidly in the last decade, reaching 2.7 million in the 1990 Census and exceeding 1 percent of the total U.S. population for the first time. The Puerto Rican population is a significant part of the U.S. Hispanic population, the country's second largest minority population. The Hispanic population has increased its presence in the United States rapidly in recent years. The number of Hispanics has increased five-fold since 1960 and will probably pass the black population to become the largest minority population by 2010. As the presence and influence of the Hispanic population continues to increase, so will that of the Puerto Rican population.

In addition to the 2.7 million Puerto Ricans on the U.S. mainland, the 3.5 million people living on the Island of Puerto Rico form a community of some 6.2 million people. The Puerto Rican community represents the second largest national origin group among the Hispanic and Asian minorities, behind only the Mexican origin population. Taken together, Puerto Ricans on the Island and the mainland are a smaller share of the Hispanic population than in the past, but still account for almost one-quarter of Hispanics.

Puerto Ricans on the mainland are still highly concentrated in the Northeastern states with by far the largest number living in New York. However, the last 30 years have seen more and more Puerto Ricans living outside New York and the Northeast. New migration streams from Puerto Rico have been established with the result that the fastest growing, large Puerto Rican settlements are in Florida and Massachusetts.

Puerto Ricans in the United States have made some progress in the last decade in terms of social and economic characteristics, but still lag far behind the white population as well as other Hispanic populations. The proportion of U.S. Puerto Ricans in poverty has changed little in the last 20 years. The persistence of high levels of poverty among Puerto Ricans appears to be strongly related to household structure, specifically the high proportion of families headed by women. Other factors affecting the poverty rate include low levels of educational attainment, location in poorly performing labor markets, very low labor force participation rates, and high unemployment.

The economic problems facing the black population are well-known. The Puerto Rican population in the United States bears a remarkable resemblance to the black population on virtually all social and economic indicators. In addition to the deficits in education, household structure, family resources, and employment faced by the black population, the Puerto Rican population faces another obstacle. Many Puerto Ricans are not native English speakers and must overcome language barriers to upward mobility.

Many problems face Puerto Ricans in the United States. Some progress has been made, but only very slowly. The lack of economic resources in the past has led to the situation today in which Puerto Ricans are in the worst economic condition of any Hispanic group. Education offers economic improvements and the newest generations are better educated than past generations. A better overall economy and better regional economies in the markets where Puerto Ricans are concentrated would aid greatly. In the end, however, enhancements in human capital are required to achieve higher wages and incomes.

Finally, the Puerto Rican population in the United States has one advantage over other Hispanics who have moved to the United States in search of better lives — Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens. Increased involvement of Puerto Ricans in the political process has the potential to improve the situation of the Puerto Rican community in the United States by directing programs and resources where they can do the most good.

II. INTRODUCTION

This profile provides a description of the demographic and socioeconomic conditions of the Puerto Rican community in the United States as of 1990. It is an up-to-date reading on the status and progress of Puerto Ricans intended to serve as an aid in understanding the demographic, social, and economic condition of the Puerto Rican community and in setting priorities for policies affecting the community.

The focus of this profile is on Puerto Ricans residing in the United States (referred to as "the mainland") in comparison with other groups, including other Hispanic populations, blacks (the largest "minority" population), and the white,[1] non-Hispanic population (the "majority" population). Although the focus of this profile is key data for 1990, some comparisons with 1980 and earlier dates are made in the text; the tabular information and figures are generally restricted to 1990.

The basic demographic data are drawn from the 1990 Census, a source which permits comparisons with the population residing in Puerto Rico (referred to as "the Island"). As of this writing, the detailed tabulations of socioeconomic data from the 1990 Census for the Puerto Rican population in the United States are not available to the public. Consequently, the source for data on social and economic characteristics is the March 1990 Current Population Survey (CPS), a large-scale survey of the U.S. population conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The Current Population Survey has some limitations, particularly regarding Puerto Ricans. The CPS sample is a large one, over 60,000 households monthly; in addition, the March CPS includes a double sample of Hispanics. Even with more than 2,000 Puerto Ricans in the sample, however, sampling variability limits the degree to which comparisons across different groups can be made. In some instances, very large differences must be observed to achieve statistical significance. Another limitation of the CPS has been a persistent inability to track change in the Puerto Rican population.

To overcome this particular problem, special tabulations were prepared for this profile to reweight the March 1990 CPS to bring it in line with results from the 1990 Census. (See the Technical Appendix for the basic methodology.) Even with the reweighting, the nature of sample data is such that the final 1990 Census results, when they become available, may differ in the fine details from the information presented here. **The main conclusions regarding the status of Puerto Ricans in the United States in 1990 should be accurately reflected in the CPS, however.**

The basic demographic data reveal that Puerto Ricans in the United States continue to be a relatively young and rapidly growing population that is concentrated in the Northeastern states. The social and economic indicators show that Puerto Ricans in the United States still lag behind other Hispanics in many dimensions and the majority population on virtually all of them. The high levels of poverty that persist in the Puerto Rican population offer formidable obstacles to individuals and will continue to pose problems for the future.

[1]Throughout the text, the term "white" will be used to refer to the white population that is not of Hispanic origin. if any other definition is used, it will be noted.

III. THE PUERTO RICAN POPULATION

Population Size and Growth

The 1990 U.S. Census counted 2,728,000 persons of Puerto Rican origin in the United States. For the first time in the country's history, Puerto Ricans exceeded 1 percent of the total U.S. population. (See Table 1 and Figure 1.) The number of Puerto Ricans in the United States has almost doubled since 1960 and increased nine-fold since 1950.

The 2.7 million Puerto Ricans in the United States account for 12.2 percent of the 1990 Hispanic origin population of 22.4 million. This percentage has been declining steadily since its peak of 14.9 percent in 1970. The decreasing proportion of Puerto Ricans among the U.S. Hispanic population can be attributed to the advent of large-scale immigration from Mexico in the 1970s and Central America in the 1980s. In contrast with the most recent 20-year period, the Puerto Rican share of U.S. Hispanics increased steadily from 0.3 percent in 1910 to 14.1 percent in 1960. The biggest numerical and percentage increases occurred in the post-World War II period (especially the 1950s) as a result of massive population movements from the Island to the mainland.

The growth rate of U.S. Puerto Ricans was 35 percent for 1980-1990, or an average annual rate of 3.1 percent. (See Table 2.) This rate represents very rapid population growth—i.e., the population would double in 22.5 years. However, the rate is the lowest rate for the U.S. Puerto Rican population in the 1910-1990 period. Until the last two decades, the growth rate of Puerto Ricans in the United States has exceeded the rate for other Hispanics.

The 1990 Census also counted 3,522,000 persons living in Puerto Rico. Overall, the Puerto Rican community on the mainland and the Island combined reached a total of 6,250,000 in 1990—an all-time high. If the Island population is combined with the Hispanic population in the United States, the 6.25 million Puerto Ricans represent 24 percent of Hispanics. This percentage, also, has been steadily declining since 1950 as a result of immigration from Mexico and other parts of Latin America.

The combined Puerto Rican population has been growing at a fairly steady pace throughout the last 80 years. The decadal percentage growth has varied in a narrow range from 17.6 percent to 29.1 percent, rates which imply doubling times of 27 to 32 years. The average annual growth rate for the 80-year period is 2.1 percent.

The mainland Puerto Rican population has grown faster than the Island population in every one of the last eight decades. The differential growth rates represent a redistribution of the Puerto Rican population, principally as a result of migration between the Island and the mainland. If the growth rates of the 1980s continue for the two populations, the mainland Puerto Rican population will surpass the Island population by 2003.

Geographic Distribution

In addition to the redistribution between the Island and the mainland, the mainland Puerto Rican population has undergone significant redistribution within the United States over the last two decades. Puerto Ricans are found in every state, but tend to be concentrated in the Northeastern states and in metropolitan areas throughout the country. The other Hispanic origin groups have very different geographic distributions with Mexicans concentrated in the southwest and Cubans in Florida. The "Other Hispanic" origin population has the most similar distribution to the Puerto Rican origin population; their ranges overlap to some degree, especially for Dominicans who have also settled in the Northeast and Florida.

New York State remains the home to the largest number of Puerto Ricans in the United States in 1990—almost 1.1 million or 40 percent of U.S. Puerto Ricans (Table 3 and Figure 2). The 1990 figure represents fully 6 percent of New York's population, easily the largest percentage of any state. Although the *number* of Puerto Ricans in New York has grown steadily, this group represents a decreasing *share* of Puerto Ricans in the United States, going from 72 percent in 1960 to 66 percent in 1970 to 49 percent in 1980 and finally to 40 percent in 1990.

New Jersey has the second largest number of Puerto Ricans (320,000) as it has had for decades. After New Jersey, the next group of states has shifted in the last decade. Puerto Ricans in Florida increased by 161 percent in 1980-1990 to 247,000 or 9 percent of U.S. Puerto Ricans. Other large increases also occurred in Northeastern states: Massachusetts (98 percent increase), Pennsylvania (92 percent increase), and Connecticut (88 percent increase). Puerto Ricans are the largest Hispanic group in the five Northeastern states with large Puerto Rican populations and represent a majority of Hispanics in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. Other large increases occurred in Illinois (129 percent) and California (93 percent).

The geographic dispersion has resulted from a combination of migration out of New York and new migration streams from Puerto Rico. There appear to have been some beneficial impacts of geographic dispersion, including increased social and political visibility plus improved socioeconomic outcomes. Movement out of the labor markets of the Northeast should yield continued improvements.

IV. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Age Composition

The Puerto Rican population in the United States continues to be a young population with a median age of 25.5 years, fully 9.3 years less than that of the majority white population (34.8 years). The Puerto Rican population is becoming somewhat older as the median age increased by 3.2 years in 1990 from 22.3 years in 1980 (Table 4). The increase in median age continues and even accelerates the 1970-1980 increase of 1.6 years from a median of 20.7 years in 1970. Declining fertility rates are the prime cause of these increases in median age. As a result, the proportion of the population under 10 years of age decreased from 22.5 percent in 1980 to 20.7 percent in 1990.

The age composition of a population can be summarized graphically as an age pyramid where each horizontal bar represents the proportion of the population in an age group. (See Figure 3.) The age pyramid for Puerto Ricans in the United States shows several distinctive features. The base of the pyramid—broad, but not extreme—is characteristic of a population with moderate, but declining fertility. The bulge at ages 20-39 signifies one of two possibilities: a historical "baby boom" or age-selective migration. In this case, the bulge clearly represents migration from the Island to the mainland at young adult ages.

All other Hispanics have a virtually identical age structure with the distinctive "immigration bulge" starting one age group earlier at ages 15-19. Puerto Ricans in the United States are "younger" than the black population (which has a median age 3.0 years greater), but the moderately high fertility of blacks gives the two age pyramids similar bases. The principal difference in age structure is the immigration bulge in the Puerto Rican age pyramid.

The extreme differences in age structure between the white population and the Puerto Rican population are very apparent in the age pyramids. Because of its very low fertility and relatively small percentage of immigrants, the white population, as noted, is substantially older and has a much smaller proportion under age 15 (19.7 percent versus 30.2 percent in the Puerto Rican population). Whites also have a much higher percentage of elderly (14.3 percent over age 65 versus 4.8 percent).

The Island population, like the mainland Puerto Rican population, is also young, but with a somewhat higher median age of 28.5 years in 1990; the Island too, has increased its median age from 24.6 years in 1980. The differences in age structure between mainland Puerto Ricans and the Island are again strongly indicative of age-selective migration. The Island has a smaller percentage at young adult ages, the prime migration years—39.1 percent at ages 15-39 versus 44.9 percent on the mainland. At older ages, the higher percentage in Puerto Rico points to return migration by older workers and retirees. At ages 65 and over, the Island's proportion of 9.7 percentage points is double that of the mainland's 4.8 percentage points.

Sex Composition

The pattern of sex ratios by age for Puerto Ricans in the United States is a fairly typical pattern with few unusual features (Table 5 and Figure 4). The sex ratio for children has the typical value of 104-105, representing the slight excess of boys at birth. (The sex ratio is defined as the number of males per 100 females.) As a result of higher mortality among males than females, the sex ratio decreases steadily with age to 46 males per 100 females at ages 85 and over.

Of more interest are some features that do not appear in the sex composition of Puerto Ricans. The Other Hispanic group has extraordinarily high sex ratios at ages 15-39, reaching 124 males per 100 females at ages 20-24 where a value near 100 would be more typical. The high sex ratios are the result of large streams of immigrants from Mexico and Central America that are predominantly male. The black pattern, on the other hand, shows a very large deficit of males beginning at ages 20-24 or 25-29. Research here points to a serious problem of sex-selective omissions from the decennial censuses for adult black males. The pattern for whites, which shows neither strong immigration effects nor highly

sex-selective coverage errors, more nearly represents mortality effects alone.

The pattern of sex ratios for U.S. Puerto Ricans in 1990 is intermediate between whites and blacks with the proportion of males at ages 20-64 being lower than whites, but higher than blacks. Two factors combine to produce this pattern. Sex-selective migration plays a role as more women than men move from the Island to the mainland in the young adult ages, but the imbalance in the sex composition of migrants is not nearly as great as among Mexican and Central American immigrants. On the other hand, the possibility of sex differences in census coverage errors, which would lead to the lower sex ratios on both the Island and the mainland, cannot be ruled out.

Household Structure and Marital Status

The composition of households and families plays a major role in determining the degree of socioeconomic success achieved in a population. Household structure is one of the mechanisms through which economic and human capital are channeled to individuals. Households determine the resources available to individuals and families. Children are reared in families, which serve as mediating institutions between the individuals and societal opportunity structures.

Marital status composition, shown in Table 6, largely reflects differences in age structure among the various populations. Because the Puerto Rican origin population is fairly young, the adult population still has higher proportions in the younger age groups with the result that the proportion never married in the population is relatively high and the proportion married is lower than in the Cuban or white populations (Figure 5). Differences among the Puerto Rican, Mexican, and Other Hispanic origin populations shown in the table are neither substantively nor statistically significant. The black population, which tends to be quite similar to the Puerto Rican population on many socioeconomic dimensions, does have a smaller percentage married and a higher percentage widowed than the Puerto Rican population.

A critical factor affecting the socioeconomic outcomes in the Puerto Rican population is the nature of household living arrangements. The Puerto Rican population has a high proportion of households that are family households (see Glossary of Terms), higher than in the white, black, and Cuban populations. The prevalence of family households reflects the much lower percentage of households made up of only one person in early adulthood and among the elderly.

But even with the high percentage of family households, the Puerto Rican population has a much smaller proportion of married-couple households than all but the black population (which actually has an even smaller proportion of married-couple households). The Puerto Rican and black populations have the highest proportion of households headed by women with no husband present. Almost one-third of Puerto Rican households (30.6 percent) and black households (31.2 percent) are headed by women with no husband present. (See Table 6 and Figure 6.) These percentages are approximately double the proportions found in the Mexican, Cuban, and Other Hispanic populations and almost *four* times the rate in the white population. This single factor, more than any other, appears to account for the lower incomes and poorer socioeconomic outcomes found in the Puerto Rican and black populations.

V. SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Education

Educational attainment, or the amount of schooling a person obtains, is a major component of human capital. An individual's life chances are partly a function of education, which shapes the access to jobs, especially "good" jobs and higher incomes. Although the educational attainment levels of Puerto Ricans in the United States are somewhat below those of many other groups, Puerto Ricans have made significant strides forward since 1980. Table 7 summarizes some of the key statistics on educational attainment in 1990.

All of the groups, except the Mexican origin population, appear close in terms of median years of schooling. (See Figure 7 also.) Median education for Puerto Ricans, 12.2 years, is very much improved over the 10.5 years shown by the 1980 Census. However, because of the very high percentages now completing high school, and the much smaller percentages proceeding on to college, median years of schooling is an inadequate measure which masks substantial differences in educational attainment among the population groups. Rather, the proportions of the populations at the lower end of educational attainment (i.e., those with very few years of schooling), the higher end (i.e., college graduates), and the middle range (i.e., high school graduates) should be examined.

In 1990, 9.6 percent of Puerto Ricans in the United States had very low levels of educational attainment, completing less than five years of schooling (Table 7 and Figure 8). This figure is significantly greater than the corresponding measure for Cubans and blacks; it is almost *nine* times the 1.1 percent of the white population completing less than five years of schooling. However, the Mexican origin population shows a much higher proportion (15.7 percent) with such little schooling. Thus, the Puerto Rican population occupies a middle ground between extremes, but clearly has substantial room to progress in terms of reducing the proportion with practically no schooling.

At the other end of the educational spectrum, 9.6 percent of adult Puerto Ricans in the United States are college graduates as of 1990, up from only 5.6 percent in 1980. As Table 7 shows, Puerto Ricans surpass only the Mexican origin population in terms of percentage of college graduates and Puerto Ricans lag far behind some of the groups. More than twice as many Cubans and whites have graduated from college, proportionately, and more than one and one-half times as many Other Hispanics.

In a very real sense, high school graduation is considered a minimum basic education in the United States today. For the first time, in 1990, more than half (56 percent) of Puerto Ricans in the United States had completed four years of high school or more. This figure represents substantial progress from 1980 when considerably less than half (only 40.1 percent) had completed this basic level of education. Here again, however, Puerto Ricans lag behind other groups. Cubans, Other Hispanics, and blacks have 7-10 percentage points more completing high school or beyond and fully an additional 25 percent of whites (81.4 percent) get at least a high school diploma. Only the Mexican origin population with 44 percent high school graduates lags behind Puerto Ricans.

Significant improvements in educational attainment will continue to be made in the future. The younger cohorts, those still in school and those just out of school, have much higher levels of educational attainment than their elders; i.e., those who could have graduated from high school 20 or more years ago. Whether this basic level of education will be sufficient to translate into "good" jobs in the 21st century United States is a question that is yet to be answered. It is likely that even more improvements in educational attainment will be required for progress in terms of economic conditions.

Labor Force Participation and Employment

Puerto Ricans in the United States participate in the labor force at a *much lower* rate than any of the groups shown in Table 8. Only 55.6 percent of Puerto Ricans are in the labor force; this figure is at least 10 percentage points lower than any of the groups shown, except the black population which is still 7.5 percentage points above Puerto Ricans. The lower overall rate for Puerto Ricans is a product of markedly different labor force participation patterns by sex across the different groups.

The labor force participation rate for Puerto Rican males in the United States in 1990 (70.5 percent) represents a significant and marked increase over the level shown in 1980 (54.9 percent). However, Puerto Rican males in the United States participate in the labor force significantly less frequently than Mexican origin, Other Hispanic origin, and white males. (See also Figure 9.) Cuban origin and black males do not differ from the Puerto Rican group.

The driving force behind the overall differences in labor force participation can be found among Puerto Rican females in the United States. Only 42.1 percent of working-age Puerto Rican females were in the labor force in the United States in 1980. Unlike for males, this figure does not represent a significant change from the 40.1 percent level found in the 1980 Census. The gap between Puerto Rican women and the other groups is huge. The closest group is Mexican women, who have a labor force participation rate 10 percentage points higher than Puerto Rican women. The other five groups have rates 15-16 percentage points higher than that of Puerto Rican women.

The factors causing the low labor force participation rates of Puerto Ricans in the United States have not been fully isolated. Puerto Ricans have historically been concentrated in Northeastern metropolitan areas, especially New York City. The upturns of the regional labor markets undoubtedly played a role in the increased labor force participation of Puerto Rican men during the 1980s, but similar gains were not forthcoming for women. Geographic concentration in these labor markets has undoubtedly exacerbated the employment problems facing Puerto Ricans in 1990. There is some evidence that Puerto Rican women outside the Northeastern states are making better economic progress. Whatever the cause, the low labor force participation rate of Puerto Rican women is particularly debilitating for the Puerto Rican population in general, and Puerto Rican children specifically, given the exceptionally high proportion of households headed by women.

Unemployment Rates—In addition to having low labor force participation rates, Puerto Ricans in the United States also tend to have higher than average unemployment rates. (See Table 8 and Figure 10.) The 9.6 percent unemployment rate for Puerto Ricans in March 1990 is significantly greater than the rate for Cubans and Other Hispanics and more than double the rate for the white population. The black and Mexican origin populations suffer from unemployment rates that approximate that of the Puerto Rican population.

The unemployment rates for Puerto Rican males and females are statistically equivalent. Similarly, the patterns by sex across the various groups are not essentially different from the pattern for the total population. When the higher than average unemployment rate for Puerto Ricans is combined with the lower than average labor force participation rate, the proportion of the Puerto Rican labor force that is actually engaged in gainful employment in March 1990 is by far smaller than the proportion for any other group shown. Only 46 percent of the 1,016,000 Puerto Ricans in the U.S. labor force in March 1990 are actually employed.

Occupations

One-half of Puerto Rican males in the United States have jobs in the categories of "managerial and professional specialty," "technical, sales, and administrative support," and "service occupations," i.e., white collar and service occupations. (See Table 8 and Figure 11.) This proportion is significantly smaller than 58 percent of white males in these occupations and larger than the 36 percent of Mexican origin males. The corresponding figures for Cuban, Other Hispanic, and black males are not significantly different from the 50 percent for Puerto Rican males. The concentration of Puerto Rican males in service occupations (20 percent) further differentiates them from white, Cuban, and Mexican origin males, whose concentrations are 8, 11, and 15 percent respectively.

Puerto Rican women, like women from all of the groups shown in Table 8, are overwhelmingly concentrated in the technical, sales, and administrative support category. There are few statistically and substantively significant differences in the distribution of women across these broad occupational categories, but there are proportionately more Puerto Rican women in the "operatives, fabricators, and laborers" category than white women and fewer than among Mexican women. Black, Other Hispanic, and to some extent Cuban women have higher proportions in service occupations than Puerto Rican women.

Puerto Rican women appear to have been somewhat more successful at moving into managerial and professional occupations than black, Mexican, and Other Hispanic women. However, any such improvements in occupational structure must be viewed in the context of the very low labor force participation ratios of Puerto Rican women. In other words, the proportion of all Puerto Rican women in these higher status occupational groupings is not exceptionally large because such a small proportion of Puerto Rican women are in the employed labor force at all. For example, 23.4 percent of employed Puerto Rican women are in managerial and professional specialty occupations versus only 16.2 percent of Other Hispanic women. But if the number in these professions is compared to *all* women in each group, a different picture emerges: only 7.6 percent of Puerto Rican women have these occupations, but 8.7 percent of Other Hispanic women do.

Income

Perhaps the most significant socioeconomic characteristic of Puerto Ricans in the United States is their low income status. Ultimately, household and family income affects virtually all aspects of an individual's life chances—where a person lives, what schools the children attend, what training a person receives, what occupations are available, and many more. The median family income of U.S. Puerto Ricans in 1989 was only $20,041. This amount is less than any of the groups shown in Table 9 and Figure 12, with the exception of the black population which had a median family income of $20,209.

Puerto Ricans had a median family income equal to only 59 percent of the overall median income, 56 percent of the median income of all whites, and an even smaller percentage of the median income of non-Hispanic whites. Even the Mexican origin population with its very low educational and occupational levels had a median family income exceeding that of the Puerto Rican population by $2,500 or 12 percent. A very high percentage of Puerto Rican families had incomes under $10,000 in 1989 (27.5 percent). This figure exceeds all othe. groups except blacks and is about double the percentage with very low incomes among Cubans and Other Hispanics. The proportion of Puerto Rican families with incomes below $10,000 is more than *four times* the proportion of whites.

Poverty—Poverty remains an extremely serious and persistent problem among Puerto Ricans in the United States. The proportion of Puerto Rican families with incomes below the official poverty level in 1989 was 30.1 percent, significantly greater than all of the groups shown, except for black families with 27.8 percent below poverty (Table 9 and Figure 13). The proportion of Puerto Rican families below poverty was essentially double the proportion of Cuban and Other Hispanic families and about *five times* the proportion of white families below poverty.

The decades of the 1970s and 1980s saw little change in the incidence of poverty among Puerto Ricans in the United States. Although there are methodological problems affecting comparisons of poverty measures over time, the general picture is not very encouraging. In 1970, about 30 percent of Puerto Rican families fell below the official poverty level (based on 1969 income). By 1980, the situation had actually worsened to the point where almost 35 percent of Puerto Rican families in the United States fell below the poverty level (based on 1979 income).Thus, while the figure for Puerto Ricans in 1990 seems to suggest some improvement in the last 10 years, the situation is essentially unchanged since 1970. A particularly troubling aspect of the trend in poverty for Puerto Ricans is the lack of improvement in the face of substantial gains in employment. The labor force participation rate of Puerto Rican males increased by 15 percentage points in the 1980s, yet the

incidence of poverty is at the same level it was 20 years ago. Labor force participation accompanied by stagnant wages and low earnings does not eliminate poverty.

Many of the factors already discussed (and numerous others) contribute to the high incidence of poverty in the U.S. Puerto Rican population—low levels of educational attainment, single-parent households, low labor force participation rates, high unemployment, relatively low occupational and wage structure, high welfare use, location in poor labor markets. One factor that stands out as being strongly related to the incidence of poverty is the proportion of families headed by females with no husband present (i.e., female-headed families). Within each race/Hispanic origin group, female-headed families have very high poverty rates (Table 9 and Figure 14). The virtually linear relationship between group poverty rates and family composition can be seen clearly in Figure 15. The only group that departs at all from the strong linear relationship is the Mexican origin population; Mexicans in the United States face a number of other problems including very low levels of education and a high proportion of undocumented residents that the other groups do not have.

The problems faced by Puerto Ricans in the United States go beyond simply the compositional effects of having the largest proportion of families headed by women. Within each type of family shown in Table 9, Puerto Ricans also tend to have the highest incidence of poverty. Thus, families headed by Puerto Rican women have a significantly higher incidence of poverty than any of the other groups shown in Table 9 (and Figure 14). Similarly, for families where the householder is not a high school graduate, a higher proportion of Puerto Rican families are in poverty than for any other Hispanic group.

The high incidence of poverty at the family level can have strong effects on individuals in the families. Table 10 shows how the poverty of families distributes individuals into poverty and what the age structure of poverty is. Puerto Rican children in the United States have the highest poverty rates of any of the groups. (Note that the Puerto Rican-black difference is not statistically significant.) Almost half of Puerto Rican children in the United States (49.6 percent) live in poverty. (See also Figure 16.) This percentage is twice the rate for Cubans and Other Hispanics and almost *four-and-one-half* times the poverty rate for white children. Because family poverty has a strong impact on life chances of children, these figures are particularly disturbing for the future prospects of lifting Puerto Ricans out of poverty.

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APPENDIX

SOURCES OF DATA

1990 Census

The 1990 Census of Population provides the basic demographic data (population counts, age, sex, and Hispanic origin) used in this profile. The census is an enumeration of the population as of April 1, 1990, conducted in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. possessions and territories, including the Island of Puerto Rico. Because of difficulties in the collection of age data and historical inconsistencies in the definition of racial identification for the Hispanic population, the U.S. Bureau of the Census produced population counts classified according to "modified" age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin categories (Spencer, *et al.*, 1992). The modifications did not alter the population totals for areas nor did they change counts of Hispanic origin groups. The only changes involved reclassifying some racial responses given by persons of Hispanic origin and changing the ages of some individuals by one year. The data used in this profile are from special tabulations of these modified 1990 census data supplied by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The 1990 Census also collected a broad range of information on socioeconomic characteristics of the population on a sample basis. Unfortunately, at the time this profile was being prepared, the detailed sample data for the Puerto Rican origin population had not been released. Thus, it was necessary to turn to an alternative data source for up-to-date information on the characteristics of Puerto Ricans in the United States in 1990.

Unfortunately, the estimates of the Hispanic population and subgroups used to weight the March 1990 CPS fell significantly short of the totals counted in the 1990 Census. The total Hispanic origin population in the CPS was 20,779,000 or about 7 percent below the census count of 22,354,000. For the Puerto Rican origin population, the CPS estimate of 2,180,000 *fell fully 20 percent below the 1990 Census count of 2,728,000*. For the Mexican origin population, the shortfall was only about 1.4 percent; for the Cuban origin population, about 3 percent; and for Other Hispanic origin, 16 percent.

For the purpose of this profile, the March 1990 CPS data for the Hispanic origin population were reweighted to bring them in line with the results from the 1990 Census. The reweighting procedure involved adjusting the CPS weights within each Hispanic origin group so that the tabulated totals from the CPS would agree with the 1990 Census counts. Two sets of marginal totals from the census were used for each Hispanic origin group: first, the census counts in single states or groups of states; and second, the national counts for age-sex groups.

For example, the reweighted totals for the Puerto Rican origin population from the March 1990 CPS were forced to agree with the 1990 Census counts of Puerto Rican origin in the following eight geographic groupings of states: New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut combined; Pennsylvania, Illinois, Florida, all other states in the Northeastern plus Midwestern plus Southern regions; and all states in the Western region. In addition, the national totals of the reweighted CPS had to agree with the national census totals for Puerto Ricans in the following 11 age-sex groups: 0- to 9-year-old males, 0- to 9-year-old females, 10- to 19-year-old males, 10- to 19-year-old females, 20- to 29-year-old males, 20- to 29-year-old females, 30- to 44-year-old males, 30- to 44-year-old females, 45- to 64-year-old males, 45- to 64-year-old females, and the 65 year old and over population of both sexes.

The groupings of states and ages were selected so that the marginal totals (state groups or national age-sex groups) from the census contained at least 150,000 persons. In a few cases, some initial groups were recombined when the reweighting ratios became too extreme or too few CPS sample cases fell in a detailed cell. For the Mexican origin population, nine geographic areas were used and 24 age-sex groups; for the Cuban origin population, three geographic areas and eight age-sex groups; and for the Other Hispanic population, 10 geographic areas and 21 age-sex groups. The adjustments were done using iterative proportional fitting to the two sets of marginal totals to obtain the reweighted totals.

Within each age-sex-Hispanic origin-geographic area cell, all CPS weights were multiplied by the ratio of the adjusted total to the original CPS total to obtain a new weight for each CPS sample case. These new weights were used in the tabulations presented in this report.

March 1990 Current Population Survey (CPS)

The Current Population Survey is a monthly survey conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census primarily for the purpose of collecting labor force information. Every month, about 60,000 households are eligible for interview and generally over 57,000 are interviewed. Every March, in addition to the basic CPS questions, interviewers ask supplementary questions about the economic situation of persons and families for the previous year. To obtain more reliable information for the Hispanic origin population, the regular CPS sample is supplemented in March with about 2,500 additional households that contain at least one sample person of Hispanic origin. The social and economic characteristics contained in this profile come from the March 1990 supplement to the Current Population Survey.

Weighting—The CPS weighting procedure inflates the sample results from the survey to agree with independently derived estimates of the U.S. population; the weighting categories include age-sex-race categories, age-sex-Hispanic origin categories, and state totals. The independently derived population estimates used in published Census Bureau reports (March 1991 and August 1991) are based not on the results of the 1990 Census, but on the results of the 1980 Census and statistics on estimated population change from April 1980 to March 1990. The reweighting changed the numerical totals shown in the tables for each of the Hispanic origin groups. In some cases, the totals changed by a substantial amount. Proportions and weights generally were less affected by the reweighting, but reflect a different geographic mix of each Hispanic population; i.e., the geographic distribution found in the 1990 Census. The figures shown for the white, non-Hispanic and black populations are based on original CPS weights. For more detail on the CPS and its weighting procedure, see U.S. Bureau of the Census (March 1991 and August 1991).

Glossary of Terms

Persons of Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin are identified by a question that asks for self-identification of the person's origin or descent. The categories in the CPS include Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American (Spanish countries), or some other Spanish origin. In the decennial census, the last two categories are combined.

Age. The age of the person at his or her last birthday.

Family. A family is a group of two or more persons (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family.

Household. A household consists of all the persons who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room, is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated persons, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the living unit. A person living alone in a housing unit or a group of unrelated persons sharing a housing unit as partners are also counted as households.

Householder. The householder is the person (or one of the persons) in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented (maintained) or, if there is no such person, any adult member, excluding roomers, boarders, or paid employees. If the house is owned or rented jointly by a married couple, the householder may be either the husband or the wife. The number of householders is equal to the number of households. The previously used term "head of household" is now equivalent to the term "householder."

Family household. A family household is a household maintained by a family (as defined); any unrelated persons who may be residing there are included. The number of family households is equal to the number of families, but the count of family household members is greater than the number of family members.

Hispanic family. An Hispanic family is a family in which the family householder is of Hispanic origin.

Years of school completed. Data on years of school completed are derived from combining answers to two questions: (a) "What is the highest grade of school that this person has ever attended?" and (b) "Did this person finish this grade?" The questions apply only to progress in "regular" schools. "High school graduates" includes persons who completed four years of high school by graduation or an equivalency test and persons who reported that they had attended some level of college.

Labor force. Persons are classified as in the labor force if they were employed as civilians, unemployed, or in the Armed Forces during the survey week. The "civilian labor force" is composed of all civilians 15 years old and over classified as employed or unemployed.

Employed. Employed persons comprise (1) all civilians who, during the survey week, did any work at all as paid employees or in their own business or profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a farm or in a business operated by a family member; and (2) all those who were not working, but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management dispute, or because they were taking time off for personal reasons.

Unemployed. Unemployed persons are those civilians who, during the survey week, had no employment but were available for work, and (1) had engaged in any specific job-seeking activity within the previous four weeks; (2) were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off; or (3) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

Occupation. Data on occupation of employed persons 16 years old and over refer to the civilian job at which the most hours were worked during the survey week.

Income. For each person 15 years old and over, questions were asked on the amount of money income received in the preceding calendar year from each of the following sources: (1) money wages or salary; (2) net income from self-employment; (3) Social Security or railroad retirement; (4) Supplemental Security income; (5) public assistance or welfare payments; (6) interest, dividends, income from estates or trusts, or net rental income; (7) veteran's payments or unemployment and worker's compensation; (8) pensions; (9) alimony or child support, regular contributions from persons not in the household, and other periodic income. Household (or family) income is the algebraic sum of the income of all household (or family) members at the time of the interview whether or not they were household (or family) members at the time the income was earned.

Poverty definition. Families and unrelated individuals are classified as being above or below the poverty level using the poverty index originated at the Social Security Administration in 1964 and revised by Federal Interagency Committees in 1969 and 1980. The poverty index is based solely on money income and varies according to family size.

Median. The median is presented in connection with data on age, years of school completed, and income. It is the value which divides the distribution into two equal parts, one-half of the cases falling below this value and one-half of the cases exceeding this value.

For more details and additional definitions, see U.S. Bureau of the Census (March 1991 and August 1991).

Table 1.
Puerto Rican Population: 1910-1990

(Populations in thousands)

Year	U.S. Puerto Ricans			Other U.S. Hispanics		Puerto Rico	U.S. Puerto Ricans plus Puerto Rico	
	Number	Pct. of Total	Pct. of Hispanics	Number	Pct. of Total		Number	Pct. of Hispanics
1990	2,728	1.10	12.2	19,626	7.9	3,522	6,250	24.2
1980	2,014	0.89	13.8	12,595	5.6	3,197	5,211	29.3
1970	1,429	0.70	14.9	8,187	4.0	2,712	4,141	33.6
1960	893	0.50	14.1	5.454	3.0	2,350	3,242	37.3
1950	301	0.20	7.5	3,738	2.5	2,211	2,512	40.2
1940	110	0.08	3.9	2,704	2.1	1,869	1,979	42.3
1930	71	0.06	2.9	2,365	1.9	1,544	1,615	40.6
1920	18	0.02	1.1	1,615	1.5	1,300	1,318	44.9
1910	3	0.00	0.3	997	1.2	1,118	1,121	52.9

Note: Puerto Rican Population of the United States
1970-1990 -- Puerto Rican Origin population from U.S. Decennial Censuses
1910-1960 -- Population of Puerto Rican birth or parentage from U.S. Decennial Censuses
Hispanic Population of the United States
1980-1990 -- Hispanic Origin population from U.S. Decennial Censuses
1910-1970 -- Estimates of U.S. Hispanic population developed from Decennial Censuses and other sources by Passel and Edmonston (1992)
Puerto Rico
1910-1990 -- U.S. Decennial Census counts

Table 2.
Percent Growth by Decade:
1910-1920 to 1980-1990

Decade	U.S. Population			Puerto Rico	U.S. Puerto Ricans plus Puerto Rico
	Total	Puerto Ricans	Other Latinos		
1980-90	9.8	35.4	55.8	10.2	19.9
1970-80	11.5	40.9	53.8	17.9	25.8
1960-70	13.3	60.2	50.1	15.4	27.7
1950-60	18.5	196.1	45.9	6.3	29.1
1940-50	14.5	174.1	38.2	18.3	26.9
1930-40	7.3	55.4	14.3	21.1	22.6
1920-30	16.2	297.4	46.5	18.8	22.5
1910-20	28.9	608.8	62.0	16.3	17.6

Source: Derived from Table 1.

Table 3.
Puerto Rican Origin Population by State: 1990 and 1980

(Populations in thousands)

State	U.S. Puerto Rican Origin Population					1990 Census, All Other Hispanic Origins		
	1990 Census			1980 Census	Percent Change, 1980-90			
	Number	Pct. of Total	Pct. of State			Mexican Origin	Cuban Origin	Other Hispanic
U.S. Total	2,728	100.0	1.1	2,014	35	13,496	1,044	5,086
TOP 10 PUERTO RICAN STATES								
New York	1,087	39.8	6.0	986	10	93	74	960
New Jersey	320	11.7	4.1	244	32	29	85	306
Florida	247	9.1	1.9	95	161	162	674	492
Massachusetts	151	5.5	2.5	76	98	13	8	116
Pennsylvania	149	5.5	1.3	92	62	24	7	52
Connecticut	147	5.4	4.5	88	66	8	6	51
Illinois	146	5.4	1.3	129	13	624	18	116
California	126	4.6	0.4	93	36	6,119	72	1,371
Ohio	46	1.7	0.4	32	41	58	4	32
Texas	43	1.6	0.3	23	87	3,891	18	388
OTHER LARGE HISPANIC STATES								
Arizona	8	0.3	0.2	4	104	616	2	62
Colorado	7	0.3	0.2	4	70	282	2	133
New Mexico	3	0.1	0.2	2	64	329	1	247
ALL OTHERS	248	9.1	0.2	145	71	1,248	71	762

Source: 1990 -- U.S. Bureau of the Census (1992a)
1980 -- U.S. Bureau of the Census (1983a)

Table 4.
Age Distributions: 1990 and 1980

Age Group	U.S. Puerto Ricans		Puerto Rico		U.S. Population, 1990 Census		
	1990 Census	1980 Census	1990 Census	1980 Census	All Other Hispanics	Blacks	White, Not Hispanic
All ages	2,728	2,014	3,522	3,197	19,626	30,483	188,300
Percent...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0-4 years	10.9	11.6	8.6	10.7	11.1	9.6	6.8
5-9 years	9.8	10.9	9.0	10.4	9.7	8.9	6.6
10-14 years	9.5	11.2	9.6	10.6	8.8	8.6	6.3
15-19 years	9.2	11.3	9.3	10.5	9.3	8.9	6.6
20-24 years	9.6	10.6	8.2	8.5	10.5	8.7	7.2
25-29 years	9.9	9.2	7.7	7.4	10.5	9.1	8.2
30-34 years	8.9	8.1	7.2	7.2	9.2	8.9	8.7
35-39 years	7.3	6.2	6.7	6.1	7.3	7.7	8.1
40-44 years	6.2	5.1	6.4	5.2	5.6	6.2	7.3
45-49 years	4.7	4.3	5.5	4.5	4.1	4.6	5.8
50-54 years	3.7	3.5	4.6	4.0	3.3	3.9	4.8
55-59 years	3.1	2.7	4.0	3.8	2.8	3.4	4.5
60-64 years	2.4	1.9	3.5	3.3	2.5	3.2	4.7
65-69 years	1.8	1.5	3.2	2.9	1.9	2.8	4.6
70-74 years	1.2	0.9	2.5	2.1	1.3	2.1	3.7
75-79 years	0.9	0.6	1.9	1.4	1.0	1.6	2.8
80-84 years	0.5	0.3	1.2	0.8	0.6	0.9	1.8
85+ years	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.7	1.4
Under 15 years	30.2	33.7	27.2	31.6	29.6	27.2	19.7
15-44 years	51.1	50.6	45.5	44.9	52.5	49.6	46.1
45-64 years	13.9	12.3	17.7	15.6	12.7	15.1	19.9
65 years & over	4.8	3.4	9.7	7.9	5.2	8.2	14.3
Median Age	25.5	22.3	28.5	24.6	25.3	28.5	34.8

Sources: 1990 -- U.S. Bureau of the Census (1992a and 1992b)
1980 -- U.S. Bureau of the Census (1983a and 1984)

Table 5.
Sex Ratios by Age: 1990 Census

(Males per 100 females)

Age Group	U.S. Puerto Ricans	Puerto Rico	U.S. Population		
			All Other Hispanics	Blacks	White, Not Hispanic
All ages	95.5	93.9	105.1	89.8	95.0
(Percent Male)	(48.8)	(48.4)	(51.2)	(47.3)	(48.7)
0-4 years	104.1	103.6	104.3	102.3	105.5
5-9 years	104.5	104.0	104.1	102.4	105.7
10-14 years	105.4	103.5	104.5	102.1	105.8
15-19 years	104.0	102.8	114.4	102.0	104.8
20-24 years	98.7	96.4	124.2	95.8	102.7
25-29 years	95.6	91.1	117.0	90.8	100.9
30-34 years	93.8	88.3	110.3	87.7	100.3
35-39 years	91.7	87.6	105.3	86.5	100.1
40-44 years	89.4	87.3	100.7	85.6	99.4
45-49 years	89.0	89.1	96.8	83.9	98.1
50-54 years	89.3	88.5	93.2	81.9	96.3
55-59 years	86.4	87.3	89.7	79.2	93.4
60-64 years	83.2	86.4	85.3	75.5	88.9
65-69 years	73.5	86.7	82.1	72.3	82.0
70-74 years	66.4	87.0	72.5	65.7	75.0
75-79 years	59.3	86.8	64.4	58.6	64.6
80-84 years	55.3	81.2	61.3	51.8	52.5
85+ years	46.3	71.8	55.9	42.4	37.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (1992a and 1992b)

Table 6.
Family and Household Characteristics: 1990

(Populations in thousands)

Category	U.S. Hispanic Origin Population by Type				Black	White, Not Hispanic
	Puerto Rican	Mexican	Cuban	Other Hispanic		
MARITAL STATUS						
Total, 15 years and older	1,874	9,140	879	3,787	21,914	149,473
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Never Married	37.8	34.7	20.2	33.3	39.9	23.5
Married	50.5	56.4	62.3	56.3	42.5	61.2
Widowed	4.0	3.4	7.2	3.6	7.9	7.5
Divorced	7.7	5.5	10.3	6.8	9.8	7.8
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE						
All Households	904	3,474	412	1,559	10,486	74,495
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Family Households	80.4	82.9	75.3	78.3	71.2	69.8
Married-couple families	46.4	60.1	58.3	55.3	35.8	58.7
Male householder, no wife present	3.3	6.8	2.9	4.9	4.3	2.7
Female householder, no husband present	30.6	16.0	14.0	18.2	31.2	8.4
Nonfamily Households	19.6	17.2	24.7	21.7	28.8	30.3
Male Householder	11.1	9.7	12.7	11.4	12.5	12.6
Female Householder	8.5	7.4	12.0	10.4	16.2	17.6
SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD						
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
One person	15.8	12.9	21.1	16.8	24.9	25.6
Two persons	26.8	19.1	28.6	24.5	25.9	34.2
Three persons	20.8	18.6	19.8	19.5	19.5	16.7
Four persons	18.8	19.6	17.4	21.0	14.8	15.2
Five persons	10.0	14.1	8.2	11.1	8.2	5.9
Six persons	5.6	8.0	3.3	3.7	3.9	1.6
Seven or more persons	2.0	7.6	1.7	3.5	2.8	0.8
Mean number of persons	3.08	3.64	2.81	3.12	2.82	2.45

Source: See Table 7.

Table 7.
Educational Attainment: 1990

(Populations in thousands)

Category	U.S. Hispanic Origin Population by Type				Black	White, Not Hispanic
	Puerto Rican	Mexican	Cuban	Other Hispanic		
Median Years of Schooling	12.2	10.7	12.5	12.4	12.4	12.8
Population aged 25 years and over	1,384	6,338	765	2,825	16,751	124,325
Percent Completed.....						
Less than 5 years	9.6	15.5	5.7	7.4	5.1	1.1
4 Years of High School or more	56.0	44.3	63.8	62.6	66.2	81.4
4 Years of College or more	9.6	5.5	20.4	15.9	11.3	23.1

Source: Hispanic Origin populations -- Special tabulations using reweighted data from the March 1990 Current Population Survey (CPS).
White and Black -- U.S. Bureau of the Census (1991b) for white and black; white Hispanics (from special tabulation using original weights of March 1990 CPS) subtracted from white total.

Table 8.
Labor Force Characteristics: 1990

(Populations in thousands)

Category	U.S. Hispanic Origin Population by Type				Black	White, Not Hispanic
	Puerto Rican	Mexican	Cuban	Other Hispanic		
LABOR FORCE STATUS						
Total, 16 years and over	1,828	8,872	872	3,689	21,211	146,478
In Civilian Labor Force	1,016	5,984	576	2,586	13,393	97,243
Percent in Civilian Labor Force	55.6	67.4	66.0	70.1	63.1	66.4
Percent Unemployed	9.6	9.1	6.0	6.5	10.8	4.4
Males, 16 years and over	869	4,654	423	1,827	9,527	70,132
In Civilian Labor Force	613	3,772	317	1,473	6,591	53,401
Percent in Civilian Labor Force	70.5	81.1	74.8	80.6	69.2	76.1
Percent Unemployed	9.6	8.7	6.8	6.6	11.5	4.7
Females, 16 years and over	959	4,218	449	1,862	11,684	76,345
In Civilian Labor Force	404	2,212	259	1,112	6,803	43,842
Percent in Civilian Labor Force	42.1	52.4	57.7	59.8	58.2	57.4
Percent Unemployed	9.5	9.7	5.1	6.3	10.0	4.0
OCCUPATION						
Employed Males, 16 and over	554	3,443	295	1,376	5,834	50,875
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Managerial and professional specialty	11.9	8.2	25.7	13.6	13.4	28.9
Technical, sales, and administr. support	19.2	12.5	19.8	17.9	16.6	21.4
Service occupations	20.2	15.3	10.7	19.1	17.5	7.9
Farming, forestry, and fishing	2.2	11.3	1.3	2.7	2.8	3.7
Precision production, craft, and repair	21.8	21.0	21.3	18.5	16.3	19.8
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	25.5	31.7	21.1	28.2	33.4	18.2
Employed Females, 16 and over	365	1,996	246	1,042	6,119	42,088
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Managerial and professional specialty	23.4	14.3	22.4	16.2	18.8	28.3
Technical, sales, and administr. support	44.0	38.4	47.3	36.1	39.7	46.3
Service occupations	18.1	23.7	18.4	31.7	27.0	15.4
Farming, forestry, and fishing	0.2	1.9	0.4	0.1	0.3	1.1
Precision production, craft, and repair	1.9	3.1	1.3	2.0	2.3	2.0
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	12.5	18.6	10.2	13.9	12.0	6.9

Source: See Table 7.

Table 9.
Family Income and Poverty Characteristics: 1990

(Populations in thousands)

Category	U.S. Hispanic Origin Population by Type				Black	White, Not Hispanic
	Puerto Rican	Mexican	Cuban	Other Hispanic		
FAMILY INCOME IN 1989						
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than $10,000	27.5	18.8	11.9	13.9	25.9	6.7
$10,000 to 24,999	29.6	36.3	26.9	33.3	32.2	22.9
$25,000 to 34,999	12.1	16.8	18.5	17.3	14.4	16.8
$35,000 to 49,999	14.8	15.5	19.1	17.6	13.7	21.1
$50,000 or more	16.0	12.5	23.6	17.9	13.9	32.4
Median income (dollars)	20,041	22,530	31,612	26,383	20,209	37,500*
Mean income (dollars)	27,023	27,404	37,764	32,356	(X)	(X)
FAMILIES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN 1989 (BY TYPE)						
All Families						
Number	727	2,880	310	1,220	7,470	56,590
Number Below Poverty	219	738	38	193	2,077	4,409
Percent Below Poverty	30.1	25.6	12.4	15.8	27.8	6.4
Female Householder, No Husband						
Number	276	556	58	283	3,275	6,255
Number Below Poverty	160	272	21	109	1,524	1,355
Percent Below Poverty	58.0	49.0	36.8	38.4	46.5	21.7
Householder Not a High School Graduate						
Number	329	1,631	109	470	(X)	(X)
Number Below Poverty	153	554	25	112	(X)	(X)
Percent Below Poverty	46.4	34.0	23.0	23.9	(X)	(X)
65 Years and Over						
Number	59	237	53	110	880	9,227
Number Below Poverty	9	40	11	13	173	444
Percent Below Poverty	14.9	16.8	20.2	12.0	19.6	4.8

(X) -- Not available.
* -- Estimated

Source: See Table 7.

Table 10
Age Distribution of the Population Below Poverty Level in 1989

(Populations in thousands)

Category	U.S. Hispanic Origin Population by Type				Black	White, Not Hispanic
	Puerto Rican	Mexican	Cuban	Other Hispanic		
PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN 1989						
Total Persons	2,728	13,469	1,040	5,083	30,332	186,979
Number Below Poverty Level	914	3,834	158	925	9,305	15,601
Percent Below Poverty Level	33.5	28.5	15.2	18.2	30.7	8.3
Less than 18 years old	981	5,083	185	1,550	10,012	44,492
Number Below Poverty Level	486	1,878	44	410	4,375	5,111
Percent Below Poverty Level	49.6	37.0	23.5	26.8	43.7	11.5
18-64 years old	1,615	7,821	705	3,251	17,833	116,984
Number Below Poverty Level	401	1,834	75	475	4,164	8,154
Percent Below Poverty Level	24.8	23.4	10.6	14.6	23.3	7.0
65 years old and over	132	565	150	282	2,487	25,504
Number Below Poverty Level	27	122	39	40	766	2,338
Percent Below Poverty Level	20.8	21.6	26.1	14.0	30.8	9.2
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BELOW POVERTY IN 1989						
Number	914	3,834	158	925	9,305	15,601
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 18 years old	53.2	49.0	27.6	44.4	47.0	32.8
18-64 years old	43.8	47.8	47.5	51.3	44.8	52.3
65 years old and over	3.0	3.2	24.9	4.3	8.2	15.0

Source: See Table 7.

Figure 1.
Puerto Rican Population
1910-1990

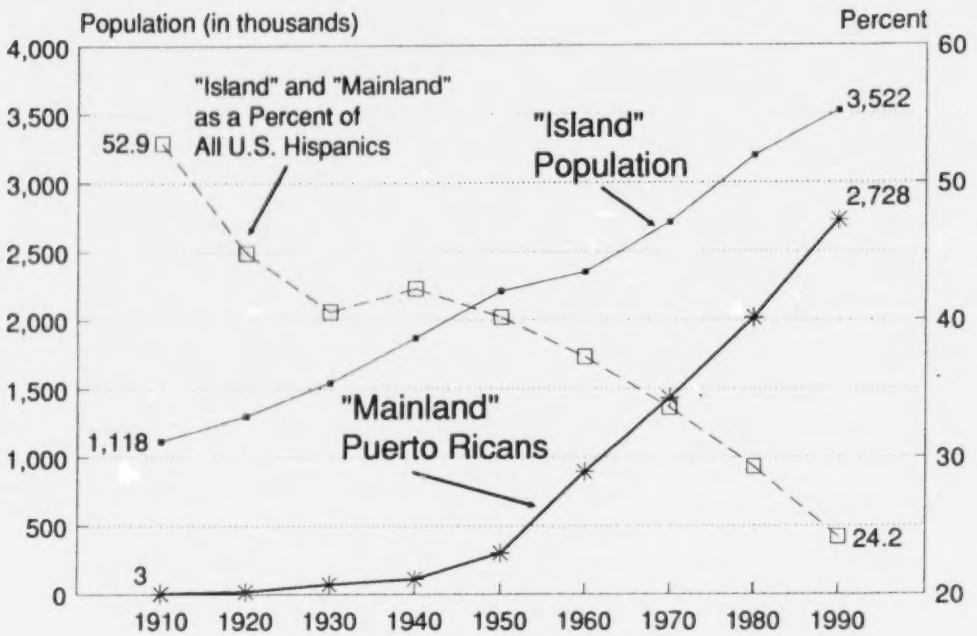


Figure 2.
Puerto Rican Population by State
1990 and 1980 Censuses

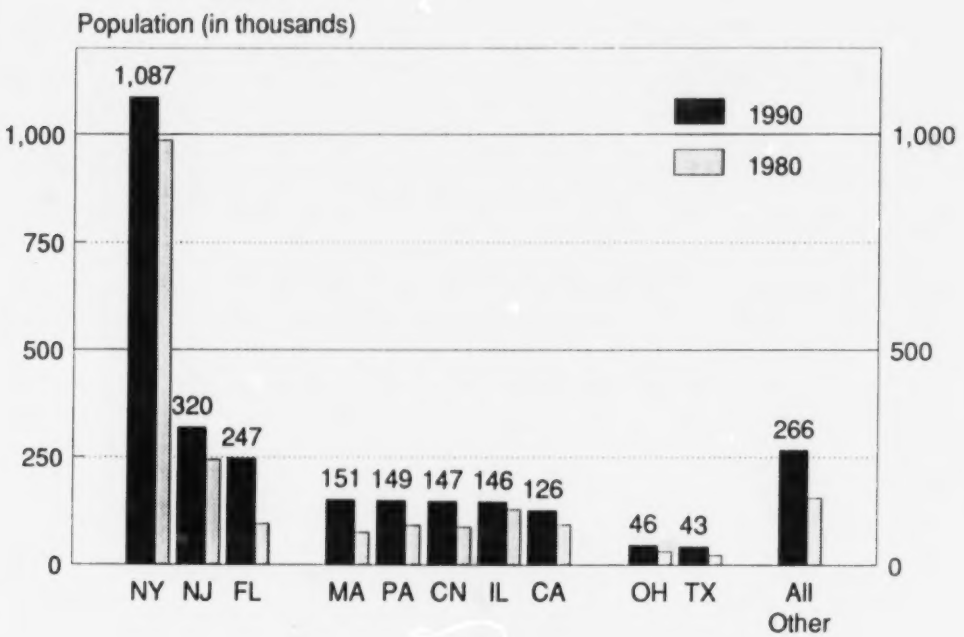
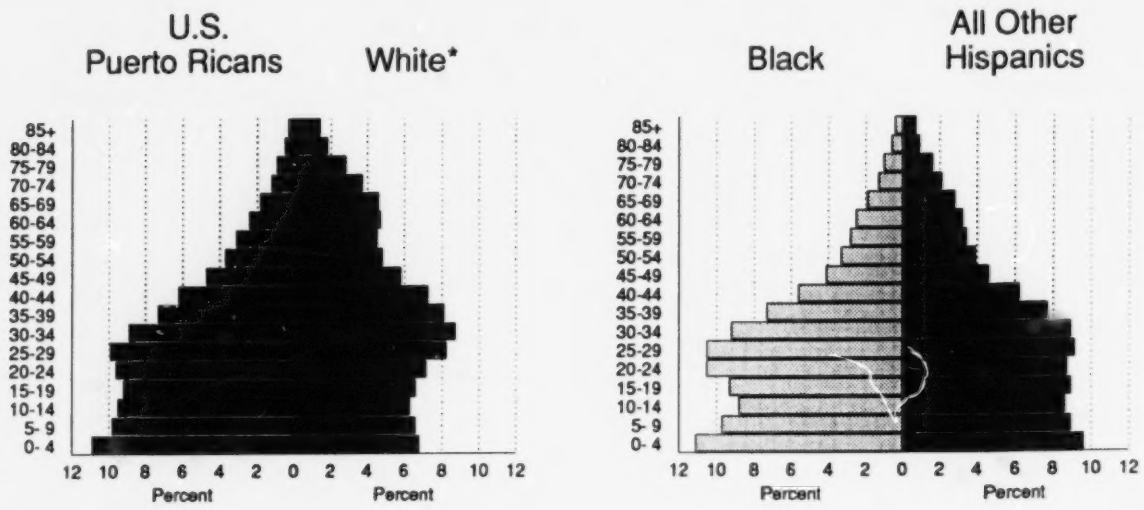


Figure 3.

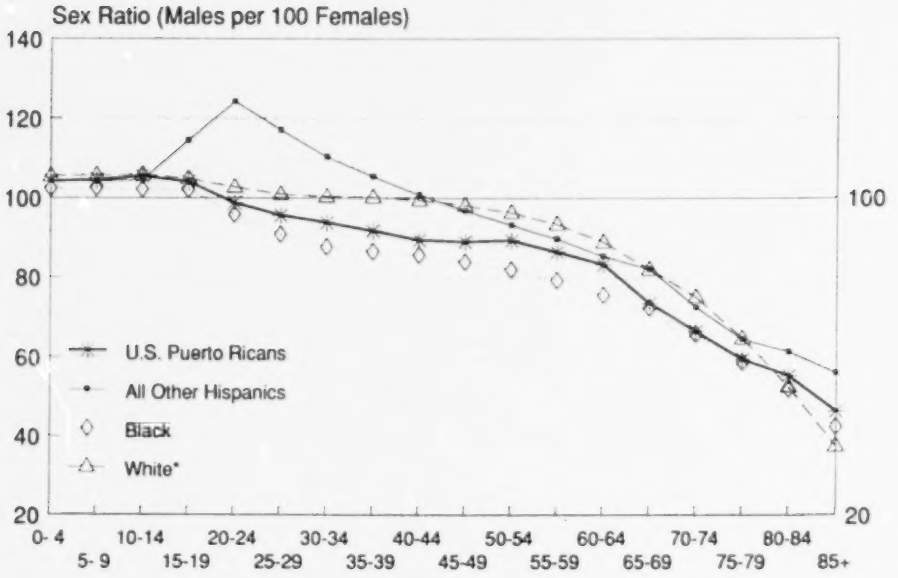
Age Distributions: 1990 Census



* Not Hispanic

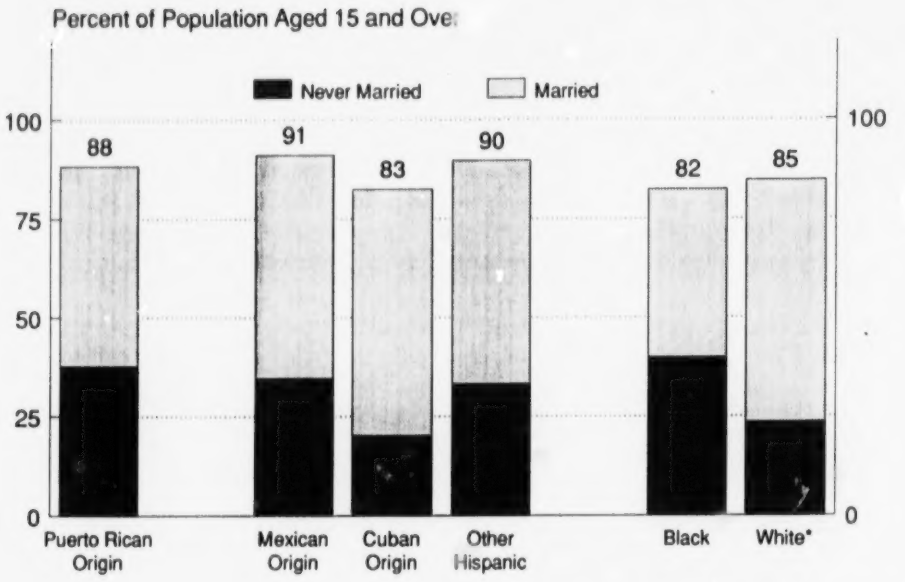
Figure 4.

Sex Ratios by Age
1990 Census



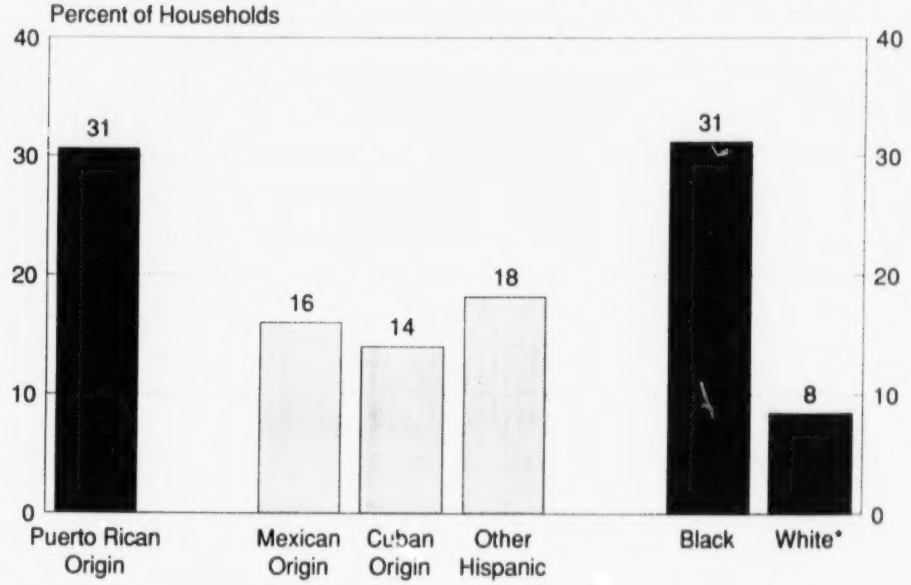
* Not Hispanic

Figure 5.
Marital Status
March 1990 CPS



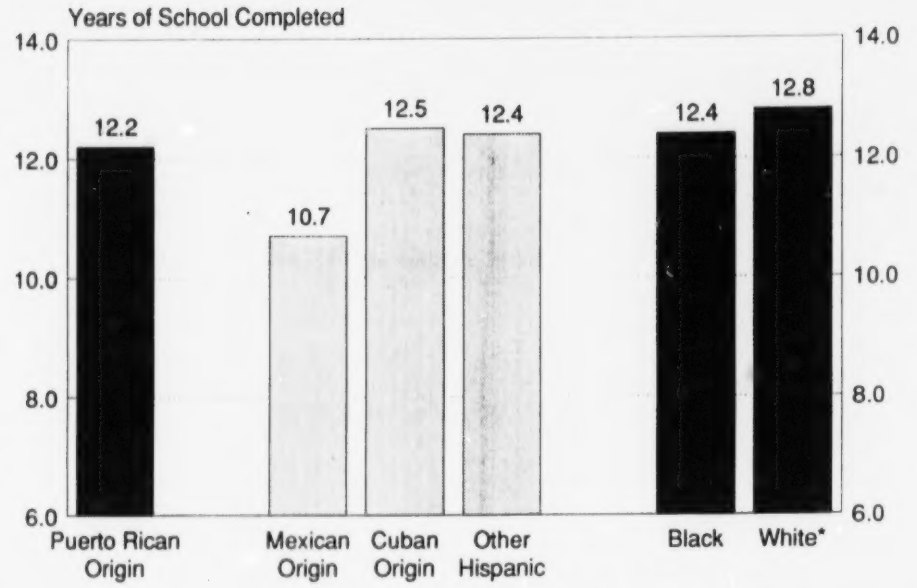
* Not Hispanic

Figure 6.
Households Headed by Women, with No Husband Present: March 1990 CPS



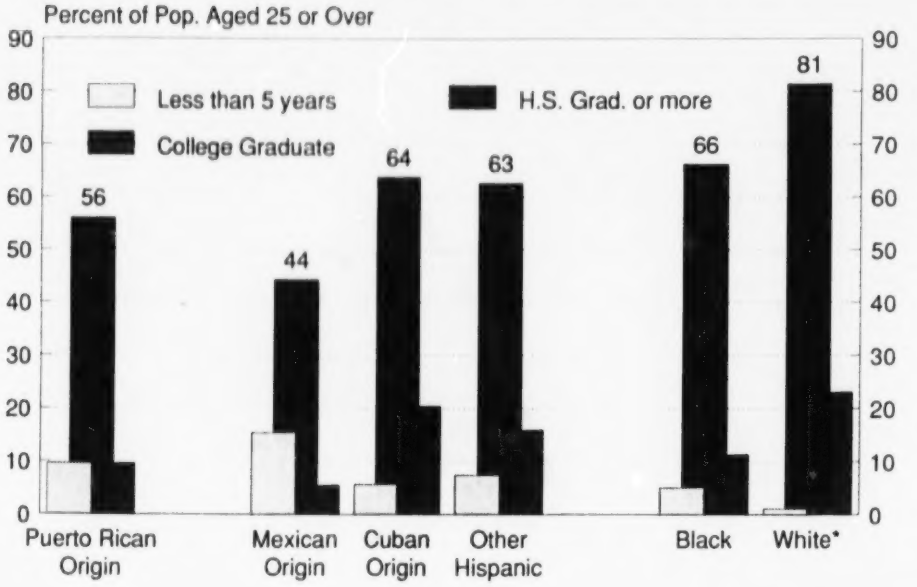
* Not Hispanic

Figure 7.
Median Years of Schooling
March 1990 CPS



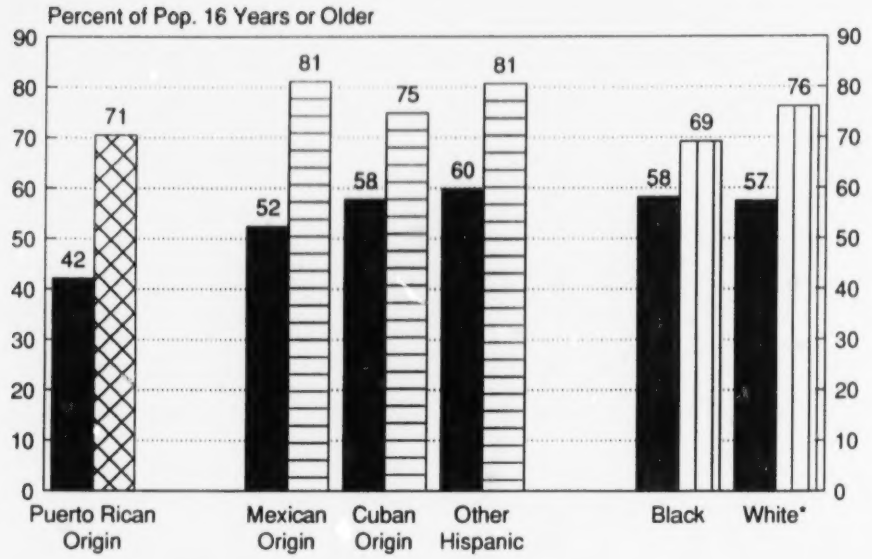
* Not Hispanic

Figure 8.
Educational Attainment
March 1990 CPS



* Not Hispanic

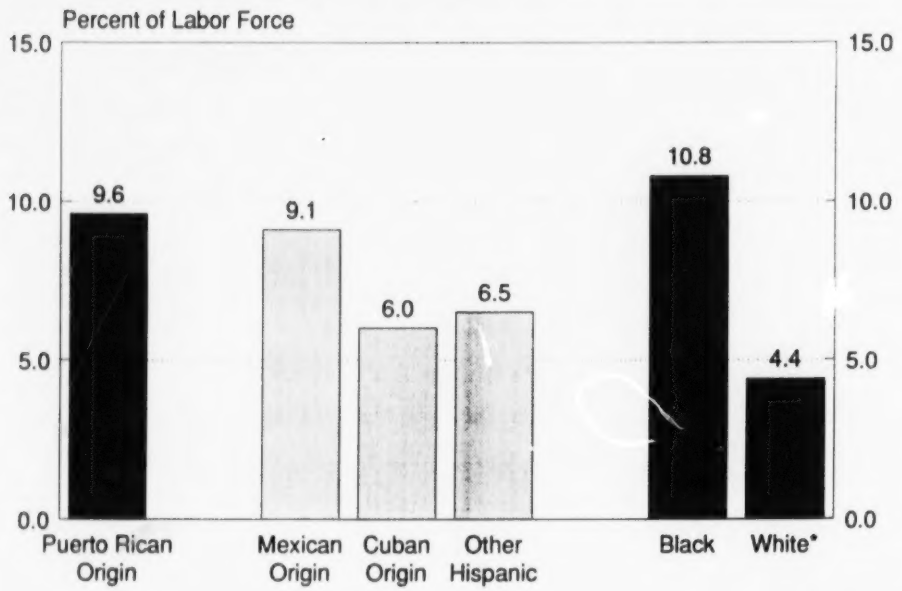
Figure 9.
Labor Force Participation Rate
March 1990 CPS



Note: Women are left bar of each pair; men, right.

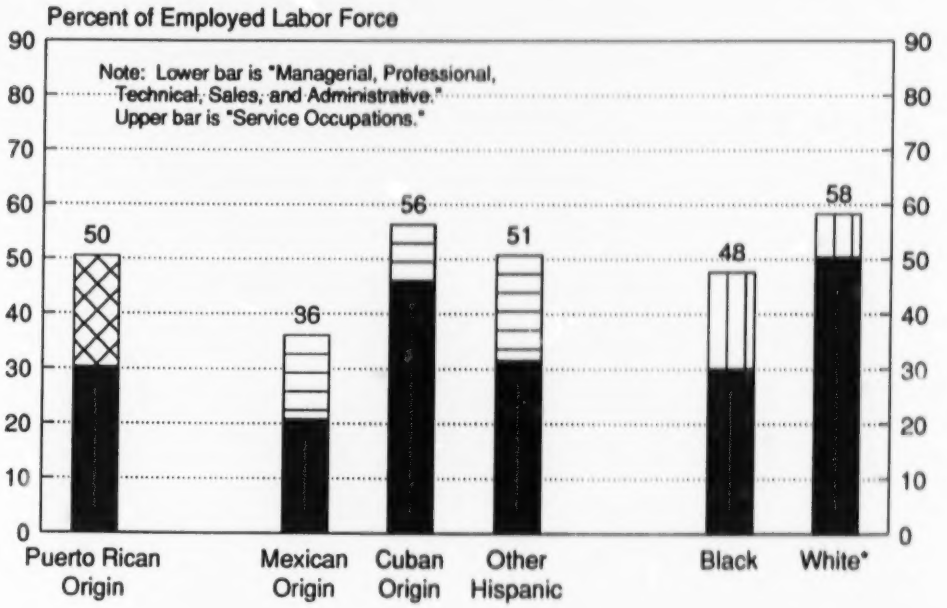
* Not Hispanic

Figure 10.
Unemployment Rate
March 1990 CPS



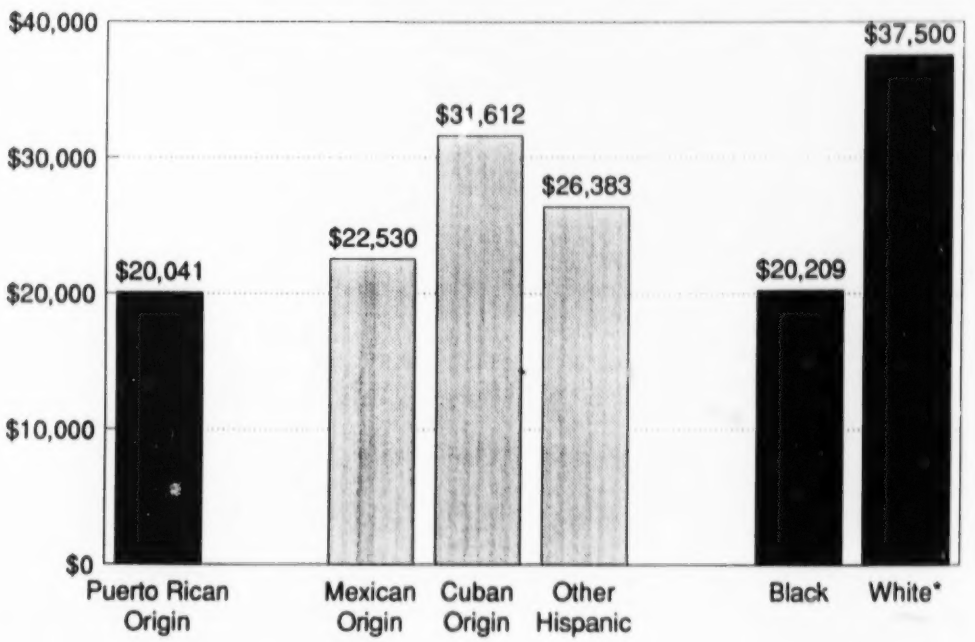
* Not Hispanic

Figure 11.
"White Collar" and Service Occupations (Males)
March 1990 CPS



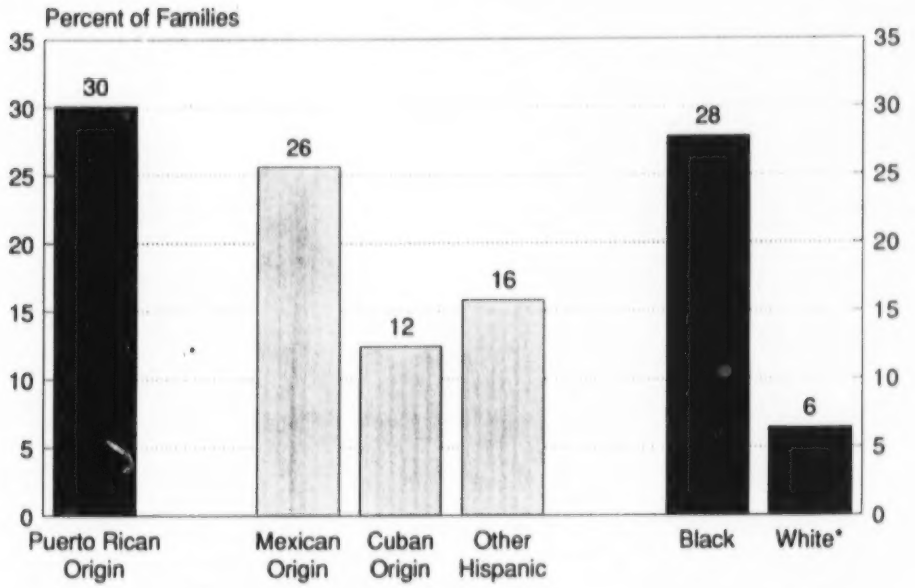
* Not Hispanic

Figure 12.
Median Family Income in 1989
March 1990 CPS



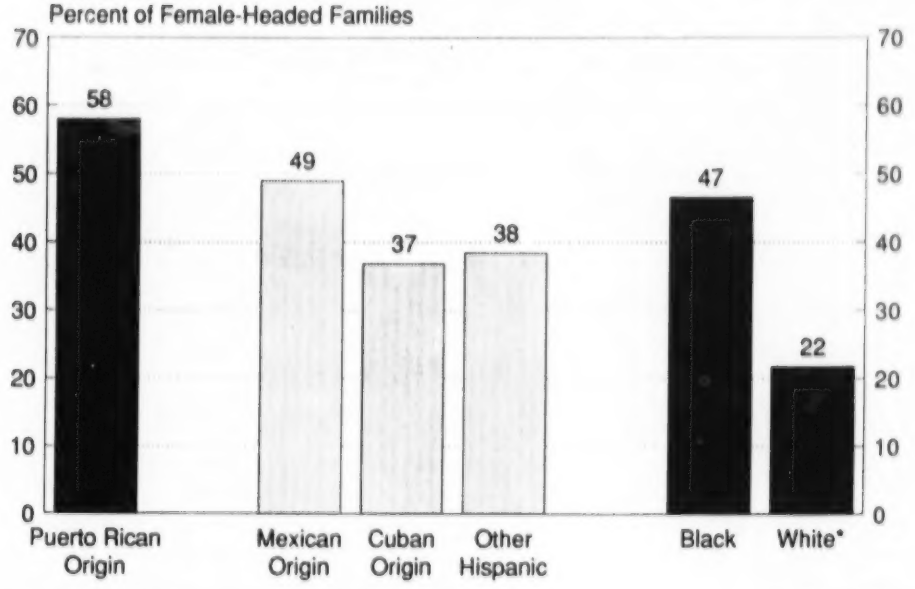
* Not Hispanic

Figure 13.
Families in Poverty in 1989
March 1990 CPS



* Not Hispanic

Figure 14.
Female-Headed Families# in Poverty, 1989
March 1990 CPS



Families headed by women, no husband present.

* Not Hispanic

Figure 15.
Female-Headed Families and Poverty
March 1990 CPS

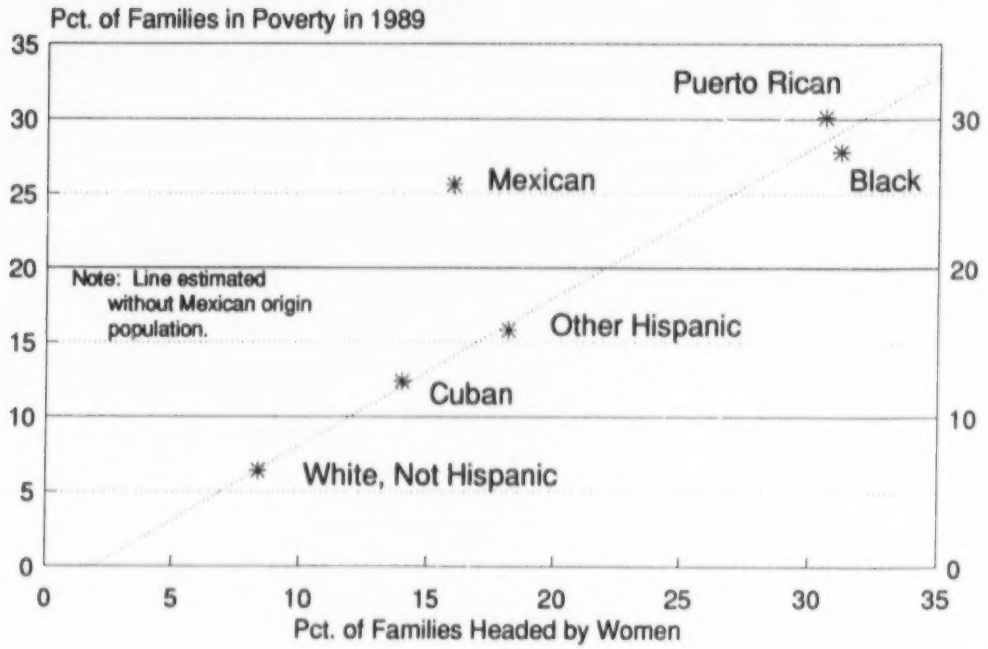
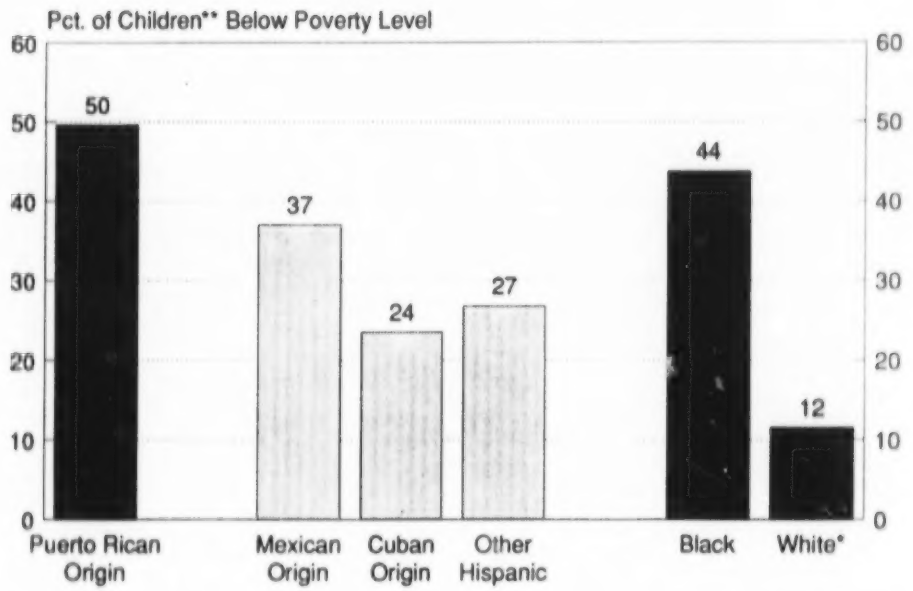


Figure 16.
Children in Poverty in 1989
March 1990 CPS



** Less than 18 years old

* Not Hispanic

Figure 3-A.
Age Distribution: 1990 Census

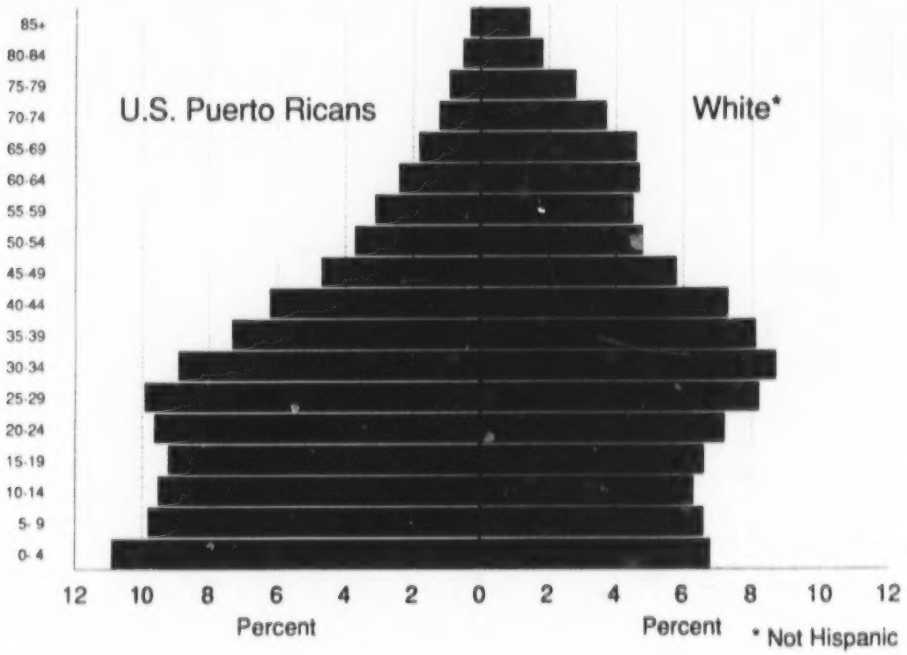


Figure 3-B.
Age Distribution: 1990 Census

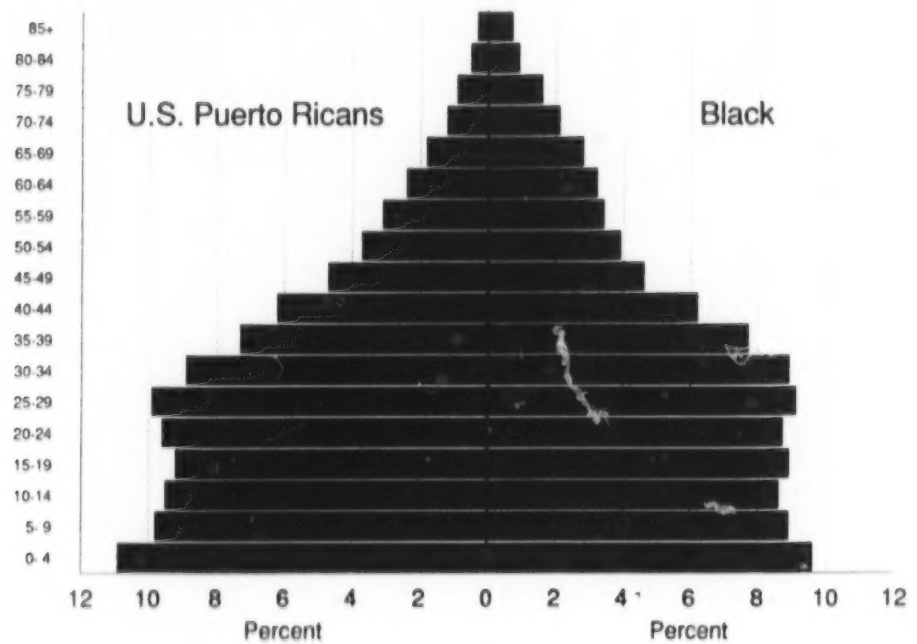


Figure 3-C.
Age Distribution: 1990 Census

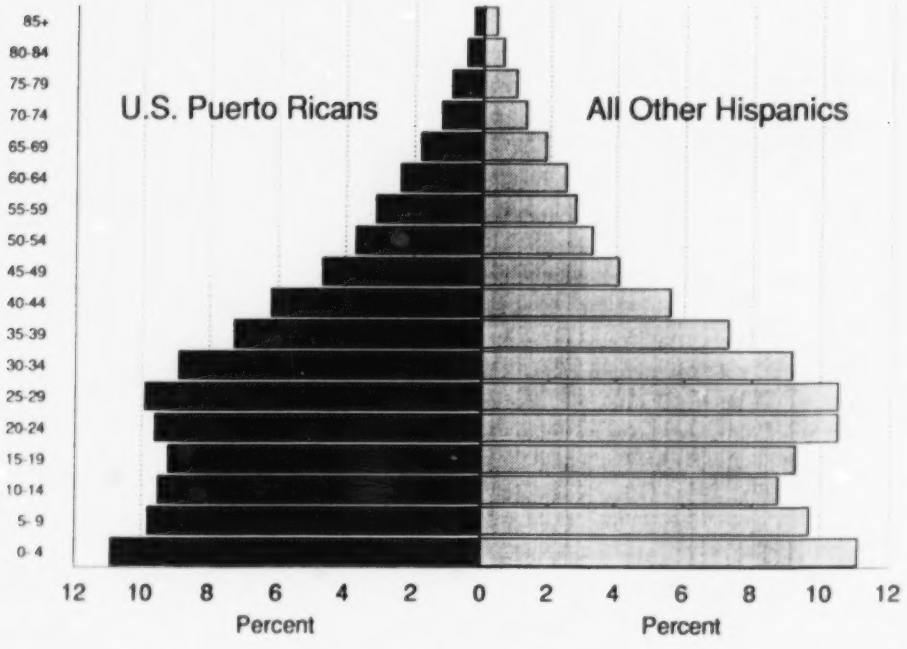
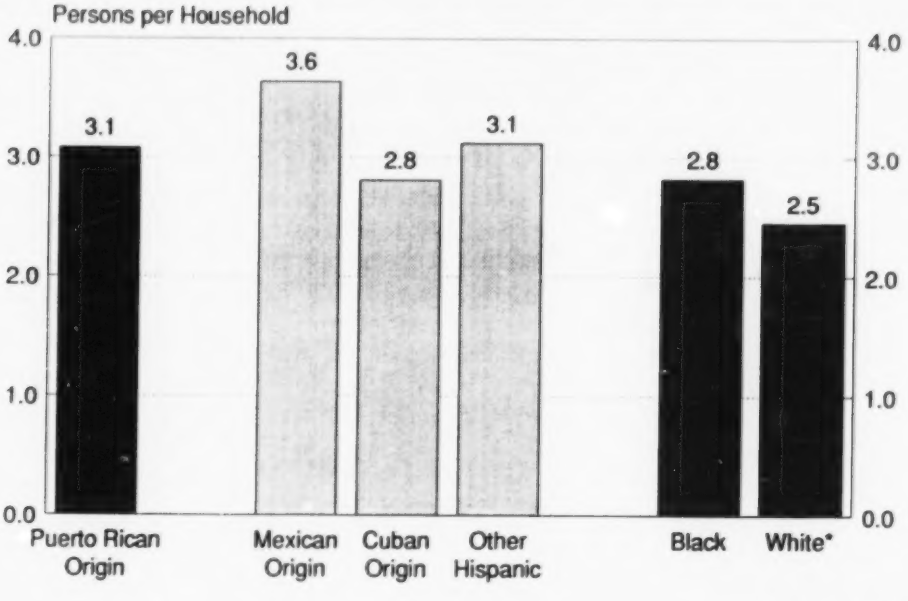
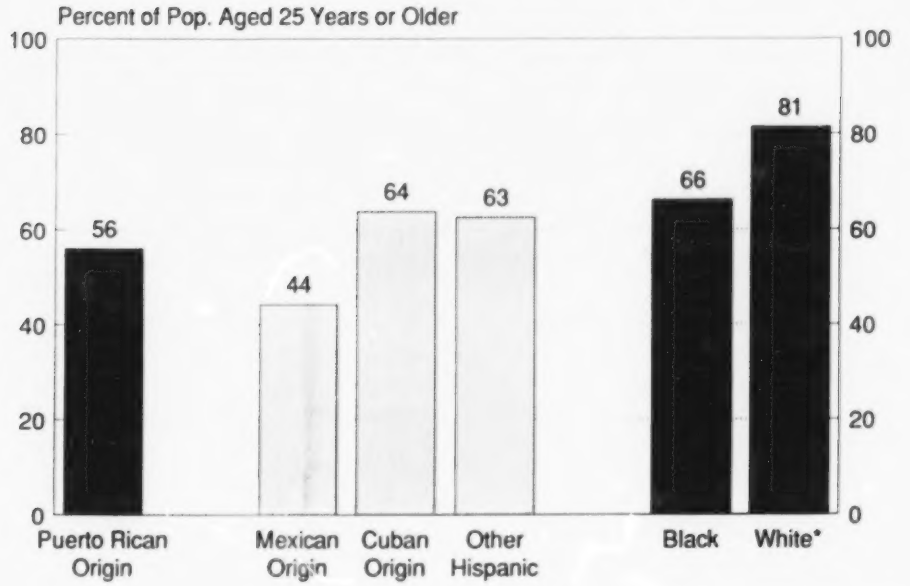


Figure 5-A.
Average Household Size
March 1990 CPS



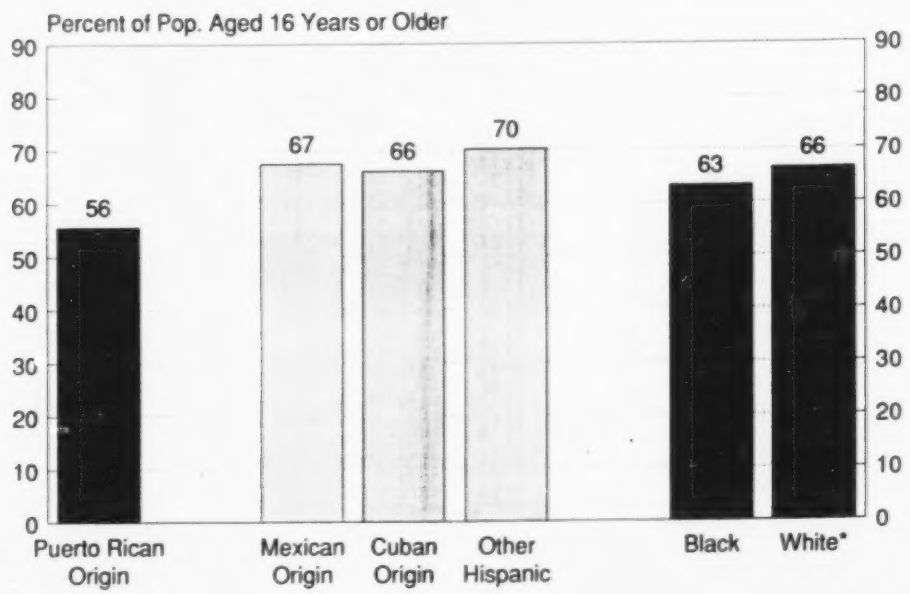
* Not Hispanic

Figure 7-A.
High School Graduates
March 1990 CPS



* Not Hispanic

Figure 9-A.
Labor Force Participation Rate
March 1990 CPS



* Not Hispanic

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❑ YES, I'm interested in membership. Please send additional information.
❑ YES, I'm interested but cannot join at this time.
❑ Add my name to your mailing list. ❑ Keep my name on your mailing list.

Date _____

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Work Phone (___) _____ **FAX** (___) _____

Home Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone (___) _____ Send mail to ❑ Office ❑ Home

PLEASE CHECK MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY AND AMOUNT TO PAY BELOW.

❑ **ORGANIZATIONAL** (Nonprofit organizations pay 1% of unrestricted budget with a minimum of $100 and a maximum of $1,000.)

Enclosed is check # _____ for $_____

❑ **INDIVIDUAL**

❑ Lifetime	$1,000 (one-time payment)
❑ Active	$ 50
❑ Supporting	$ 25
❑ Student	$ 10
❑ Senior Citizen	$ 10

Enclosed is check # _____ for $ _____

❑ **INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION NETWORK:** $100

Enclosed is check # _____ for $ _____

BEST COPY AVAILABLE